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Message Text

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17
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /119 W
---------- 077385
P R 281745Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO ;SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8246
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1370

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: CHURCH STATEMENT RAISES BASQUE SEPARATISM ISSUE

1. PASTORAL LETTER PREPARED UNDER DIRECTION OF ARCHBISHOP ANOVERAS
OF BILBAO AND READ IN ALL BASQUE PROVINCE CHURCHES SUNDAY FEB 24,
HAS PROVOKED SHARP REACTION FROM GOVERNEMENT.

2. GOVERNMENT HAS FORBIDDEN PRESS FROM REPORTING CONTENTS OF PASTORAL
LETTER AND HAS ENCOURAGED LOCAL PRESS TO PLAY UP REPORTS THAT
PARISHIONERS IN BASQUE CHURCHES REACTED VOCIFEROUSLY AND NEGATIVELY
TO DOCUMENT. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES, ARCHBISHOP ANO VERAS,
WHO HAS PUBLICLY DEFENDED DOCUMENT AND DENIED CHARGES THAT IT PROVOKED

WIDESPREAD DEMONSTRATIONS AMONG PARISHIONERS, NOW IN STATUS TANTAMOUNT

TO HOUSE ARREST AWAITING DECISION BY GOS AUTHORITIES ON POSSIBLE
FURTHER ACTION AGAINST HIM.

3. SUMMARY OF PASTORAL LETTER AS FOLLOWS:
A. BASQUE PROBLEM SPRINGS FROM FACT THAT SOME AFFIRM EXISTENCE
OF BASQUE PEOPLE AND DEMAND PRACTICAL RECOGNITION OF THEIR
RIGHTS, WHILE OTHERS REJECT INDIGNANTLY THIS AFFIRMATION
AND ASSERT THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE SITUATION CONSTITUTES
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GRAVE ATTEMPT AGAINST SOCIAL ORDER. CHURCH AFFIRMS THAT LIBERATION

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OF HUMAN INDIVIDUAL IS INSEPARABLE FROM LIBERATION OF PEOPLE
TO WHOM INDIVIDUAL BELONGS. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DIMENSION
OF CHRISTIAN SALVATION AFFECT ETHNIC GROUPS AND DIVERSE
PEOPLES SINCE THEY ARE COLLECTIVE EXPRESSION OF COMMUNITY OF
HUMAN INDIVIDUALS. CHURCH PROCLAIMS AND DEMANDS LIBERATION
OF OPPRESSED PEOPLES. JUSTICE DEMANDS THAT RULERS COMMIT
THEMSELVES TO HUMAN VALUES OF MINORITIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE
INVOLVING THEIR LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND TRADITION. AT TIMES
RULING CLASSES MAY YIELD TO TEMPTATION TO SACRIFICE PECULIAR
CHARACTERISTICS AND VALUES OF COUNTRY FOR ADVANTAGES OF SIMPLE
ECONOMIC GROWTH, DECISION WHICH MERITS CLEAR DISAPPROVAL.
B. RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO MAINTAIN IDENTITY INCLUDES POWER TO HAVE
SOCIO-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION THAT PROTECTS AND PROMOTES
LIBERTY AND COLLECTIVE PERSONALITY. CHURCH ITSELF WOULD COMMIT
OUTRAGE AGAINST DIGNITY OF A PEOPLE AND WOULD BE UNFAITHFUL
TO ITS MISSION IF IT TRIED TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL USING CULTURAL
EXPRESSIONS ALIEN TO THAT PEOPLE'S WAY OF LIFE. BASQUE PEOPLE
HAVE THEIR OWN CULTURE AND SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS, MOST
NOTABLY THEIR ANCIENT LANGUAGE. BASQUE PEOPLE LIKE OTHER PEOPLE
OF SPANISH STATE, HAVE RIGHT TO CONSERVE THIS IDENTITY, TO
DEVELOP SPIRITUAL PARTIMONY WITHIN SOCIO-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION
THEIR JUST LIBERTY. NEVERTHELESS USE OF BASQUE LANGUAGE
IN EDUCATION AND CULTURAL MEDIA SUBJECT TO NOTORIOUS RESTRICTIONS
AND DIVERSE CULTURAL MANIFESTATIONS ALSO SUBJECT TO DISCRIMINATORY
CONTROL. CHURCH MUST SEEK THAT SITUATION OF OUR PEOPLE BE
REASONABLY MODIFIED.
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